



GMS Flash Alert

Immigration Edition

2020-422 | October 6, 2020



Philippines – COVID-19: Quarantine Extension and Exceptions on Travel Restrictions

The General Community Quarantine (GCQ) will continue to be enforced in the National Capital Region and other cities and provinces in the Philippines while certain exemptions from international travel restrictions may be available for foreign nationals who seek to enter the Philippines for essential and emergency reasons.¹

WHY THIS MATTERS

The extension of the quarantine measures and travel restrictions will continue to limit the movement of international employees assigned in the Philippines.² Employers should continue looking into the effects of this extension on the compliance requirements of their employees in relation to their tax, immigration, and social security obligations.

On the other hand, in order to help with planning, employers may consider securing a recommendation letter for their employees for purposes of obtaining an exemption from the travel restriction.

General Community Quarantine (GCQ) Extension

The National Capital Region and the cities of Batangas, Tacloban, Bacolod, Iligan, and Iloilo shall remain under GCQ from 1 October until 31 October 2020.

Under GCQ, strict home quarantine shall be observed in all households and movement shall be limited to accessing essential goods and services and to work in permitted offices or select establishments. Government offices shall operate under a limited workforce and limited public transportation will be allowed.

All domestic flights to and from Metro Manila are allowed under GCQ. International travel restrictions shall remain except for those cases mentioned in the advisories³ of the Bureau of Immigration.

Exemption on Inbound Travel Restrictions

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) may issue a recommendation letter to allow a foreign national to enter the country under exceptional cases such as an endorsement from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA).

Based on Memorandum Circular No. 2020-0035⁴ issued by PEZA, a letter request to be exempted from the travel ban may be submitted by the PEZA entity. According to the Memorandum Circular, the following documents should be attached to the letter request:

- a. "Bio" page of the passport of the foreign national;
- b. Department of Justice Indorsement, as applicable;
- c. Copy of ticket, if available.

Employers that are not PEZA-registered enterprises may submit their requests to the DTI.

FOOTNOTES:

1 For this and other relevant measures taken by the Philippines government to combat the spread of COVID-19, see this [webpage](#) of the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines.

2 For prior coverage of Philippine government quarantine measures see the following issues of *GMS Flash Alert*: [2020-361](#) (20 August 2020) and [2020-223](#) (8 May 2020).

3 Ibid.

4 See [PEZA Memorandum Circular No. 2020-0035](#).

* * * *

Keeping Connected Globally Virtual Meeting Series: Interesting Information, Insightful Statistics, and Past Webinars

As businesses react to the challenges faced today, build resilience, identify opportunities for recovery, and adapt to a new reality, KPMG International hosted weekly webcasts from 24 March to 16 June to help tax, legal, and mobility leaders around the world successfully navigate the business impacts arising from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Over the course of 13 weeks, 10,000+ business leaders joined these webcasts and provided their valuable feedback through polling questions, post-session surveys, and Q&A sessions. [This webpage](#) offers you highlights of the series.

Contact us

For additional information or assistance, please contact your local GMS or People Services professional* or one of the following professionals with the KPMG International member firm in the Philippines:



Karen Jane S. Vergara-Manese
Partner
Tel. + 63 (2) 8885 7000 ext. 8349
kvergara@kpmg.com



Jozette Issel G. Dizon
Director
Tel. + 63 (2) 8885 7000 ext. 8581
jgdizon@kpmg.com

* Please note that KPMG LLP (U.S.) does not provide any immigration services. However, KPMG Law LLP in Canada can assist clients with U.S. immigration matters.

The information contained in this newsletter was submitted by the KPMG International member firm in the Philippines.

© 2020 R.G. Manabat & Co., a Philippine partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. KPMG International provides no client services. No member firm has any authority to obligate or bind KPMG International or any other member firm vis-à-vis third parties, nor does KPMG International have any such authority to obligate or bind any member firm. All rights reserved.

www.kpmg.com

kpmg.com/socialmedia



© 2020 KPMG LLP, a Delaware limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG global organization of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. NDPPS 530159

The KPMG name and logo are registered trademarks or trademarks of KPMG International.

The KPMG name and logo are trademarks used under license by the independent member firms of the KPMG global organization.

KPMG LLP is the U.S. firm of the KPMG global organization of independent professional services firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services. The KPMG global organization operates in 147 countries and territories and has more than 219,000 people working in member firms around the world.

Each KPMG firm is a legally distinct and separate entity and describes itself as such. KPMG International Limited is a private English company limited by guarantee. KPMG International Limited and its related entities do not provide services to clients.

Flash Alert is a GMS publication of KPMG LLP's Washington National Tax practice. To view this publication or recent prior issues online, please click [here](#). To learn more about our GMS practice, please visit us on the Internet: click [here](#) or go to <http://www.kpmg.com>.